REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has canceled claim 31. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Epstein, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,510). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Epstein discloses a method for secure anonymous querying by a user of an information provider by electronic mail and for obtaining a reply uses a public key of the provider to form an electronic encrypted query package containing information including a query, a generated random number sequence, a hash of the query, a generated public key of the user, and an identification of a public bulletin board. The query package is preferably sent to the provider via a network from a public terminal. At the information provider the query package is received and decrypted. If the result of hashing the decrypted query is equal to the decrypted hash, a response R is formulated. A response package is formed therefrom by using a generated symmetric key of the information provider and the public key of the user. The response package is posted to the public bulletin board along with the random number sequence.; The public bulletin board is accessed by the user in an anonymous manner and the response package, which is identified by the random number sequence, is downloaded and decrypted to obtain response R. (Epstein, Abstract)

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that the combination of Epstein fails to teach, disclose, or suggest "creating an access granting ticket comprising...a principal identifier representing the principal towards the data providing entity", as recited by Applicant's claims. The Examiner cannot properly read the contents of the query package of Epstein on the principle identifier of Applicant's claims.

Epstein discloses a method for secure querying by a user of an information provider to obtain health information. (See Epstein; col. 1, line 63 – col. 2, line 8) Epstein teaches that its "query package" is sent to the provider via a network in such a manner that the user is not identifiable to the provider. (See Epstein; col. 2, lines 25-26) Epstein is very clear that "the user formulates a query Q, in which information...from which identity might be ascertained **has been redacted**." (See Epstein; col. 5, lines 9-14) The Query of Epstein does include an identification, however, this identification is of a public bulletin board **not** the user. In view of the above, it is clear that Epstein teaches away from "creating an access granting ticket comprising...a principal identifier representing the principal towards the data providing entity."

The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's reading of the "random number/public key" of Epstein as the principal identifier of Applicant's claims. The Dictionary of Computing & Digital Media defines public key encryption as follows: "A system devised to keep data secure. In this system, a public key is used to encrypt data, and a private key is required to translate it." (1999) Newton's Telecom Dictionary (2006) defines public key encryption as follows: "Public-key encryption (also called asymmetric encryption) involves a pair of keys – a public key and a private key – associated with an entity that needs to authenticate **its identity** electronically or to sign or encrypt data." (emphasis added) Clearly, one having ordinary skill in the art would not regard a public key as an identity. On the contrary, one having ordinary skill in the art would use a public key to **authenticate** an identity. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that the random number/public key of Epstein cannot properly read on the principal identifier of Applicant's claims. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the above reasons, the present claims are not anticipated by Epstein.

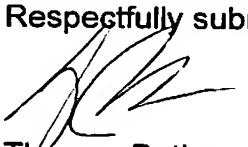
In view of the above arguments, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 12, 19, 22, and 28-30 are patentable over Epstein. Claims 2-11, 13-18, 20, 21, and 23-27 are patentable at least by virtue of depending from their respective base claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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